

berry there was undoubtedly an Indian encampment. There are still to be seen scars on the sugar-maple there, which, at the time the first settlers came, indicated great age. These, from their appearance, are supposed to have been made by the aborigines, for the sap. There is also in the same vicinity, a natural opening on the rich alluvial soil of this stream, where it is supposed they cultivated a little Indian corn.

There were also a large quantity of Beaver, as well as other kinds of deer, which furnished an extensive field for trapping. Some of the dams built by the beaver still remain in some parts of this town. There was also an Indian path through this place, which connected the Delaware and Susquehanna rivers. It had the appearance of having been much travelled, and traces of it were distinctly seen and followed by some of the first settlers in this region.

Here these children of the forest tarried, and found their rich furs in trapping the beaver and the otter. Around these beautiful lakes, or natural ponds, whose waters are clear as crystal, and over these hills, the Indian boy found his sport in the chase for the deer and the elk. Here he drank and refreshed himself at these cool springs of water, and bathed in the limpid streams of his forest home. No white man molested him, or tempted him with the vices of civilization. As he pursued the plentiful game, or reposed in safety, by these murmuring streams, and majestic rivers—he could say with a conscious independence, "This is my own" as well as "my native land."

### III. SETTLEMENT.

But now another race of men has taken their places—a race more capable of developing the resources which the Creative Hand has here lodged. The entrance and work of the white man more particularly claim our attention.

The tract of land lying in the north part of this county, was bought of the aborigines, by Thomas and Richard Penn, heirs of William Penn, on the 5th of November, 1768. In this purchase was included a large portion of the State, extending diagonally from the northeast to the southwest corner. It was bought of the confederate tribes called the "Six Nations," in their general council, at Fort Stanwix—now the village of Rome, New York—for the sum of ten thousand dollars. Just six years after this event, that is to say in November 1774, a lot of land, upon which a part of this village stands, was bought of the proprietaries by one Christopher Hagar. This lot extended westward across the valley of the Lackawaxen to Belmont. It passed through several hands—purchasers who never intended to occupy it—when in June, 1789, it was purchased by Mr. Samuel Stanton, the first actual settler in this township. He was from Preston, New London County, Connecticut. Taking the route of New England emigration at that time, he proceeded up the Mohawk river. To gain the information he needed, with reference to wild lands, he came to Cooperstown, and had an in-